

Inside this issue:

Warden Tea Event 2016	1
Earthquake Tips	2
Recipe	2
Tax Filing information	3
SMS enrollment system	3
Some ACS services	4
Embassy Contact Information	4
Embassy Closure	4

# The ACS Newsletter

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MAY EDITION

## Warden Tea Event 2016

On March 15, twelve of our twenty-four Embassy Wardens joined us for Tea in Baridhara. Some of them live in Dhaka, but others came from as far as Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. Deputy Chief of Mission David Meale opened the event, hosted by our Deputy Consul General Sharon Weber, by reminding the Wardens of the important role they play.

The Department of State has no more important responsibility than the protection of Americans overseas. American Embassies and Consulates around the world rely primarily on their Consular Warden Systems to disseminate this information as well as other safety and security information to the American community.

The Consular Warden System began in the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and was extremely useful to U.S. citizens overseas during World War II. For many years, the Warden System functioned as a type of pyramid system to inform U.S. citizens of developments in times of crisis, where Wardens served as the only source of information from the Embassy to citizens living in their areas of town.

Over the past twenty years, the internet dramatically changed how we communicate with citizens resident in our Consular District. Our website is on-line and kept up-to-



date. You can check the latest news (including Security Messages and other Messages) on the Embassy's website. (For us here in Bangladesh, that would be <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/>.) Other important information is available on [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), including our Country Specific Information. Travel alerts and Travel Warnings are posted there as well. We have an easy-to-use registration system, STEP, also on [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), which you can (and should) enroll in whenever you are overseas. Those who have e-mail have Messages from the Embassy sent straight to you. Like this Newsletter, for example.

But nothing replaces a human being when you need help, and that is where our Wardens come into the picture. In the past six

months, two of our Wardens have played a heroic role in helping U.S. citizens, in two separate incidents, in two parts of the country! If you do not know who your Warden is, please send us an e-mail at [dhakaacs@state.gov](mailto:dhakaacs@state.gov), and we'll be glad to help you. If your Warden calls you on the phone, or knocks at your door, to introduce himself, or herself, please know that you are speaking to a wonderful volunteer who only wants to help you when you need help.

*The Cover Story submitted by: Elizabeth P. Gourlay  
Consul General,  
U.S. Embassy, Dhaka*

# Earthquake preparedness Tips

## What To Do During in an Earthquake



### **DROP TO THE GROUND!**

When you feel shaking, immediately drop to the ground and crawl to safe shelter away from windows. Even gentle shaking can unexpectedly turn violent, throwing you to the ground. Attempting to run during an earthquake increases your risk of falling and serious injury.

### **COVER YOUR HEAD!**

The majority of earthquake injuries and fatalities are caused by broken glass and falling debris. Being hit on the head by a single

falling brick or heavy ceiling tile can cause you to lose consciousness and be unable to escape. Seeking shelter under a sturdy desk or table will protect your head and neck from falling objects and could save your life. Even a chair can provide temporary protection as you crawl to seek safe shelter.

### **HOLD ON TO YOUR SHELTER!**

Even large objects can move in an earthquake.

Once you find safe shelter, hold on to make sure your desk or

table doesn't drift away leaving you vulnerable. If your shelter moves, move with it.

*Once the shaking subsides, relocate to a safer area but seriously consider the dangers of leaving the building. Standing on a street surrounded by high-rise buildings increases your chances of injury from falling debris, as well as from falling street lights and electrical wires.*

***The only safe outdoor space is a large open field or road away from tall buildings.***

## Recipe for a Gloomy Day

*"This smoothie is so bright, cheerful, and delicious; it is like a blast of sunshine on even the most rainy, windy days!"*

### **Ingredients:**

- ◆ 1 mango – peeled, seeded, and cut into chunks
- ◆ 1 banana, peeled and chopped
- ◆ 1 cup orange juice
- ◆ 1 cup vanilla nonfat yogurt
- ◆ Some ice cubes

### **Directions:**

Prep time: 10mins  
Ready in: 10mins

Place mango, banana, orange juice, some ice cubes, and yogurt in a blender. Blend until smooth.

Serve in clear glass, and drink with a bendy straw.



*If you would like to submit your cooking recipe, please e-mail DhakaACS@state.gov.*



## Tax Filing Information for U.S. Taxpayers Abroad

### Q: Who Must File?

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien living or traveling outside the United States, you generally are required to file income tax returns, estate tax returns, and gift tax returns, and pay estimated tax in the same way as those residing in the United States. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

Your income, filing status, and age generally determine whether you must file an income tax return. Generally, you must file a return if your gross income from worldwide sources is at least the amount shown for your filing status in the [Filing Requirements table in Chapter 1 of Publication 54, Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad](#).

### Q: I Haven't Filed All My Tax Returns – What Can I Do?

If you have not filed all the returns that you should have and want to catch up on your filing obligations, see IRS makes changes to offshore-programs.

### Q: I Received a Notice from the IRS – What Do I Do?

If you receive a notice from the IRS and need to contact the IRS, call the number listed in the notice or the International Taxpayer Service Call Center (contact information is listed in the section above).

### Q: Where Can I Get Help?

Contact the International Taxpayer Service Call Center by phone or



fax. The International Call Center is open Monday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).  
Tel: 267-941-1000 (not toll-free)  
Fax: 267-941-1055

### Q: Can I Electronically File My Return?

You can prepare and e-file your income tax return, in many cases for free. Participating software companies make their products available through the IRS. Many Free File and e-file partners accept a foreign address. [E-File options](#)

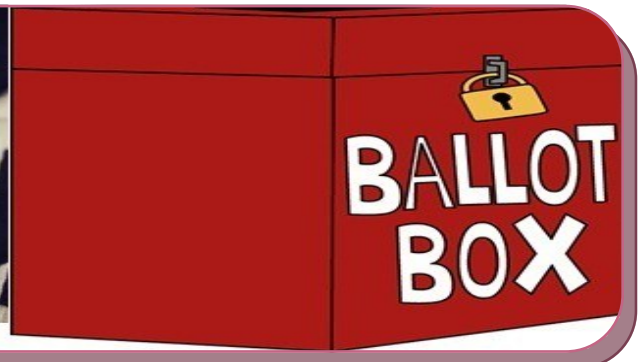
## New SMS enrollment system

Now made  
**EASY**

You may also wish to sign up to receive SMS messages from the Embassy via your mobile phone. Such messages may relate to issues of security or general information from the Em-

bassy. This service is for U.S. citizens only. Please visit the Embassy website at <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/>

[acs\\_registration.html](#) to read through the details on SMS enrollment. And at the website you may click on [SMS Enrollment form](#) and fill up the required fields to start receiving SMS alerts when the embassy disseminates any SMS blasts.



All regular American Citizen Services are by appointment **only**. Walk-in hours are not available. To schedule an appointment online please visit the Embassy website at <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/>



## U.S. Department of State

### U.S. Embassy Dhaka

American Citizen Services

Madani Avenue, Baridhara  
Dhaka – 1212

Phone: 88 2 5566-2000

(Hours of Operation: Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu,  
from 8:00 am - 4.30 pm)

E-mail: DhakaACS@state.gov

### Some Services We Provide:

- PASSPORT RENEWAL
- CONSULAR REPORTS OF BIRTH ABROAD
- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER APPLICATION
- NOTARIAL SERVICES
- ABSENTEE VOTING AND VOTER INFORMATION
- MEDICAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION
- FEDERAL BENEFITS APPLICATION
- TREASURY CHECKS DISTRIBUTION
- EMERGENCY MONEY TRANSFER FACILITATION

### Stay Connected



### Diplomacy in Action

## Upcoming Embassy Closures

### May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 *Buddha Purnima	23 *Shab-e Barat	24	25	26	27	28
29 Memorial Day	30	31				

### July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 *Shab-e-Qadr	4 USA-Independence Day	5	6 *Eid-ul-Fitr	7 *Eid-ul-Fitr	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**Notes:** No American and/or Bangladeshi holidays exists in **June 2016**.  
(\*) Subject to change based on religious calendar.